



Romeo Perspective

The Romeo Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit Organization

Special Interest Articles:

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2014-15 RHS Board

- Sue Kane, President
Anna Reiz, Vice President
Tim Billo, Treasurer
Linda Pritchard, Secretary
- Trustees:
- Richard Beringer
 - Douglas Pritchard
 - Stuart Walters
 - Connie Connelly
 - Joann Urban

Welcome to our New Members:

- Chris Chirco & Brandy DeBenedetti
- Kurt Heidelbrect
- Penny Hishon
- Ann & Al Kresse
- Erin & Daniel Lane
- Christine & Jon Malzhan

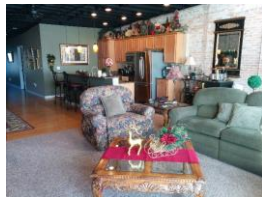
Christmas Home Tour Amazing Success!

Our tour featured six charming homes that were all beautifully decorated for the holidays! Linda Pritchard, organizer of the 2014 event put together a wonderful selection of homes that showcased Romeo's wonderfully diverse architecture. Thank you to our homeowners for opening up their homes for our enjoyment.



Orrin Sisson Residence
1877 Second Empire

Every element of the homes design including the decorative details of the porch and bay window, the two-toned venetian blinds with porcelain knobs, and the elaborately patterned mansard roof with classical dormers, make this one of the most interesting Second Empires residences in the county.-R.D.



Apartment over Romeo Printing Building built about 1865.

Wide stairs lead up to a beautiful second floor apartment that overlooks North Main Street. Exposed brick work shows the original building. Look up and see the old ceiling rafters, all painted black. What a great place to view the annual Romeo Peach Festival.



James J. Frost Residence
1874 Victorian Gothic

This residence contains one of the finest Victorian front doors in the village. "An elegant piece of workmanship" pronounced the Romeo Observer in Nov. 1874. The home has flush siding, large Victorian bay windows, heavy hoods over the windows, decorative trim at the gables and iron work decorations at the roof



Robert W. Elliott Residence
1901 Queen Anne

This property once was the location of a steam powered grist mill built in 1856 by O. W. Hopkins and Samuel Ewell. The mill burned in 1870. The home is asymmetrical in shape, with an incised corner, large windows, dentil decoration at the porch, fish-scale decoration at the gables, and a large porch popular at that time.



James Church Ranch
1953 Crescent Ranch
Built during the "mid-modern" era of the 50's and designed for functionality and informality of the California life style. The hill on which the ranch was built was part of the D.U.R. track leading from Romeo to Almont.



James Starkweather Home
1830-40 Greek Revival
Born in 1801, James Starkweather came to Romeo on October 9, 1824. James purchased the property in 1825 building a log cabin before building the present home. The home has been purchased by the Simpson Park Camp and is being staged for this event by park members. We are fortunate to be able to visit one of Romeo's oldest homes.

**Membership
Renewal
Reminder!**

**Your continued support
is needed. Please keep
the Society going by
renewing your
membership or by
making a contribution.
We appreciate and
thank you for your help!**

**ROMEO HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please mail this form with your
check/money order to:
Romeo Historical Society
P.O. Box 412, Romeo, MI 48065

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership: Renewal New
 Individual \$15. Family \$20.
 Business \$25. Lifetime \$250.
 Contribution _____

The Romeo Historical Society is a
Michigan Non-Profit 501(c) 3 organization.

From the President's Desk...

2015 is Here.....The board and I are busy planning new events and new programs. Can You help?? We'd like to hear from our membership on what they would like to see in the coming year. How about some ideas for a new fund raiser for Peach Festival. We decided this is an event that we've never taken advantage of. The people are here so we don't need to advertise, we just need a product or event for them to visit and of course your help to put it all together. Stop in on a Tues Night between 7-9pm and we'll talk about it, or call one of your board members.

.Sue Kane

Donations, Events & Other News...

Thank you Fred Buike for the wonderful presentation on the Great Thumb Fire of 1881 on Nov. 6, 2014

We would like to congratulate Fred Zirotte for being awarded the Volunteer of the Year at WBRW Channel 6.

Thank you to David Doss for the donation of a post card of the Romeo Hotel for our archives.



Thank you to Judith Anderson Koenig for the donation of family photos and newspaper clippings for our museum. See letter below.

November 19, 2014

Dear Bonnie,

Enclosed are the things from my parent's house that I thought you'd like to have in your museum. To give you a little background, my mom was Audrey Bathurst Anderson, daughter of Fred and Myrtle Bathurst (my grandparents - but I'll use first names so it's not too confusing). Audrey graduated from Romeo High School in 1947, and the enclosed newspaper shows her graduation class. Fred and Myrtle had two other children, Donald Bathurst (married to Donna Bathurst), and Richard Bathurst (married to Elinor Bathurst). Both lived in Romeo for many years. Don passed away in 2002; Richard lives in Greenville.

Fred and Myrtle resided in Romeo at 401 N. Bailey St. and lived there all of their married life (from about 1924 to 1987). Fred's parents were Alfred and Henrietta Bathurst, and I believe that Alfred moved in with Fred and Myrtle after Henrietta died and remained there until he died. I mention this because some of the things I'm sending were Alfred's.

Alfred and Henrietta had a daughter Pearl (Fred's sister). Pearl married Ray Mellon, and they lived in Romeo. (Fred and Pearl had other siblings, but I don't think they lived in Romeo.) Ray Mellon owned a coffee shop on N. Main St., and you'll see that some of the pictures I'm sending came from him.

Pearl and Ray had 4 children. Two sons were in World War II, and one, "Orvie Mellon," was killed in battle; I believe this was on Christmas Day. I've sent the newspaper from when he was inducted into the service. Orvie was married to a woman named Isabelle, and they also lived on N. Bailey St. I don't know anything more about them, though.

My father was Bob Anderson, originally from Romeo, but later from Almont. His oldest brother Leo Anderson, was inducted at the same time as Orvie Mellon, which is noted in the newspaper. As a side note, there were 4 boys in my dad's family and all were in the War at the same time. I have some pictures that show this, but they lived in Almont, and I'm checking to see if the Almont library would like them. If not, I'd be glad to send them to you.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions about the things I'm sending. I'm still going through the things from my parents' house. If I find anything else that I think you'll be interested in, I'll let you know.

Sincerely,
Judy (Anderson) Koenig

From Our Curators...

Have you met our staff researcher yet? Just drop in at the archives museum any Tuesday evening from 7-9 pm. And you will find Fred Buike waiting to tell you all about Romeo's past. Fred loves to talk about the great forest fires in Michigan and the trains that passed through Romeo. He usually has a bag of things he brought from home under the table full of things he will donate to our museum each night. Boy Scout uniforms, photo albums, books, advertisements from his Romeo families' businesses. Fred is related to Romeo's Smiths, Brewers and Prices. He also enjoys doing a little smithing at our blacksmith museum. He has helped to keep it open this year about 8 times.



Joan Beringer has set up two Church Street Museum displays at our libraries. The large display at the Graubner Library was during the month of December. The smaller display at the Kezar Library will be available for a longer period.

Sue Kane requested that each member invite a number of friends to tour our museums with them. Sue just brought two friends to the Bancroft-Stranahan House Museum last Tuesday and her friends were interested enough to stay for 90 minutes. They really enjoyed the tour that Joan gave them. Maybe our 100 members who haven't been in our museums for a while might want to see what is new in our wonderful museums. New displays and acquisitions change weekly.

We are still looking for grants to repair the siding at the Craig Museum and the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum. The estimated cost is \$5,000. Remember we are a tax deductible 501c(3) charity. Chris Chirco, who had his house on the Christmas Tour, is a regular at the Tuesday evening Archives. Chris has done some great research on the history of his house. He is exploring the thousands of artifacts at the archives and will be happy to guide you through our archives and research library. Please come in and check out the research library and talk with Chris.

Richard & Joan Beringer
Curators

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

January 1, 2015
Happy New Year!
No meeting scheduled.

February 2015
Our Museums will be closed during the month of February 2015

March 5, 2015
Antique Appraisals by Sue Kane
7 p.m. at Two Romeo Girls new location
next to the Masonic Temple
\$5.00 an item, up to 3 items per person.
No charge for members.

To be announced call for info 586-752-4111

April 2, 2015
7 p.m. Archives Museum
General Membership Meeting
To be announced call for info 586-752-4111

May 7, 2015
7 p.m. Archives Museum
General Membership Meeting
To be announced call for info 586-752-4111

June 4, 2015
6 p.m. Clyde Craig Blacksmith
General Membership Potluck Dinner,
Meeting & Elections

We will have our annual potluck, plant exchange, horseshoes and elections. We hope to see you there and please bring a dish to pass! For info call 586-752-4111

Currently Accepting Donations
June, 2015

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Archives Museum
Flea n'tique

Please drop off donations items at the Archives Museum on Tuesday 7-9 p.m. For more info 586-752-4111.

Times & Dates subject to change please call, email or check our Facebook page.

Upcoming Events that are in the works:

Presentation on Railroads
Presentation on 1934 Tornado
Opera House Tour
Romeo Finds to Tell About
More info to come.

Romeo Historical Society

Street Address
290 N. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 412
Romeo, MI 48065

PHONE:
(586) 752-4111

FAX:
(586) 752-5414

E-MAIL:
rhs@romeohistoricalsociety.org



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

Also like us on Facebook!

Three Local Museums to Visit..

Our Museums & Archives will be closed during the month of February

Romeo Art & Archives Center
290 N. Main Street.
(Former state police building)
Open Tuesday Nights 7-9 p.m.

Bancroft-Stranahan House Museum
132 Church St.
Open Tuesday Nights 7-9 p.m.
Archives and House Museum will be closed during inclement weather.

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop
301 N. Bailey St.

The Blacksmith Shop is open the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. No forge.

And on the

3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m.

Dates are subject to change so please check the sign in front of the Archives Museum

About Our Organization...

The Romeo Historical Society was founded in 1961. We are a volunteer organization totally funded through our memberships, donations, grants and the events we hold throughout the year. We maintain and operate two museums and an Arts & Archive Center. These buildings are part of our area history where you can learn about our past through exhibits and artifacts. We would love to have your support and participation in our events. As always, volunteers are welcome.

Our Mission

Is to preserve, document and promote the history and heritage of the Village of Romeo and its surrounding areas.

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*Romeo Historical
Society*
P.O. Box 412
Romeo, MI 48065

